

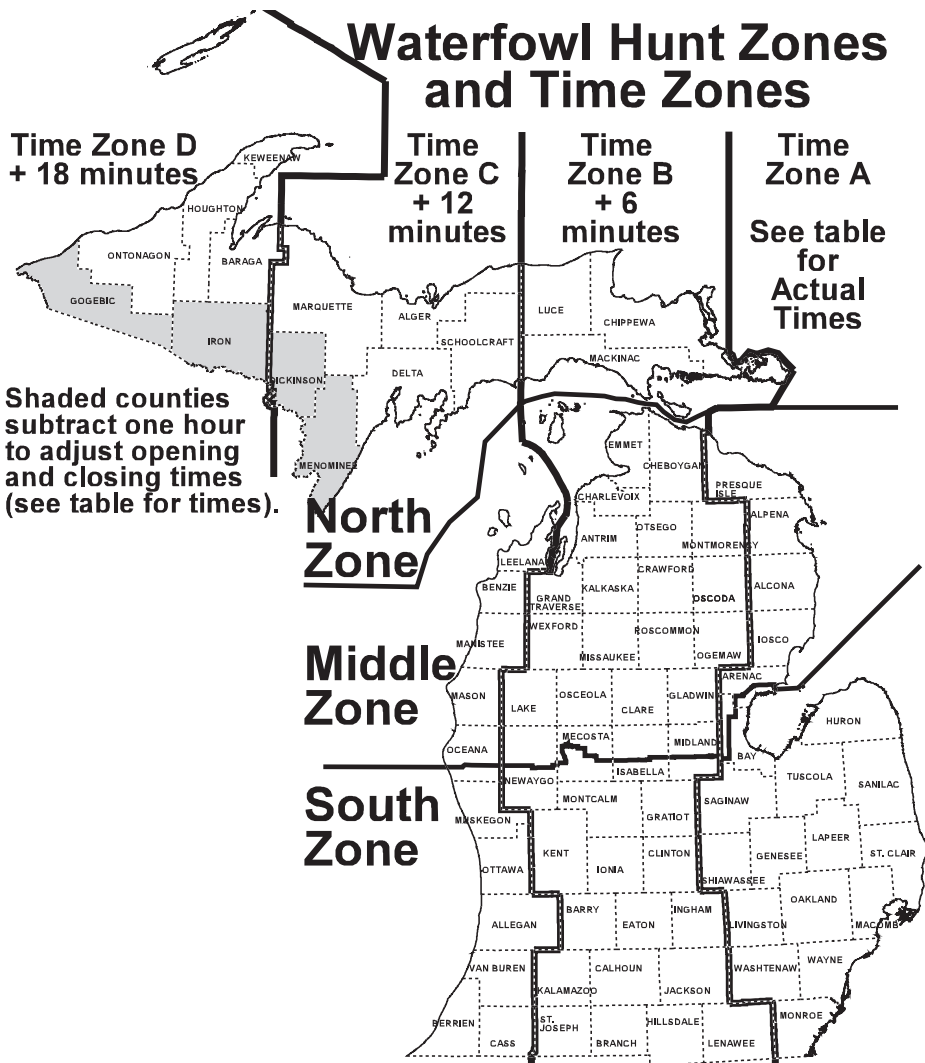
Hunting Zones and Shooting Hours

Michigan's North Zone for waterfowl (duck, coot, moorhen and goose) hunting includes all of the Upper Peninsula (see map below). The Middle Zone consists of the north half of the Lower Peninsula. The remainder of the Lower Peninsula is called the South Zone. Note: The late Canada goose season takes place only in the South Zone.

The exact dividing line between the Middle and South Zones is described as follows: a line beginning at the Wisconsin border in Lake Michigan due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, easterly and southerly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to Michigan Highway 20, east along Michigan 20 to U.S. Highway 10 Business Route (BR) in the city of Midland, east along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, east along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, north along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, east along U.S. 23 to the centerline of the AuGres River, then southerly along the centerline of the AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canada border.

Below is the map with waterfowl (duck, coot, moorhen and goose) hunting zones and all four of Michigan's waterfowling time zones. If hunting in **Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson** or **Menominee** counties that are on Central Time, you must adjust the listed times to Central Time.

Add the minutes indicated below to the times listed in **Zone A** table on last page of this digest for the correct shooting and hawking hours in Zones B, C and D.



Authorizing Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land

All commercial hunting guides using state-owned lands require department oversight. In 2011, all commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are also required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/statelandpermission or contact Brenda Mikula at (231) 597-0472 or mikulab@michigan.gov for more information.

Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas

Permits are issued at several managed areas through drawings held at area check stations. A \$4 daily or \$13 annual permit fee is charged for use of areas with (Fee) shown below. Permits can be purchased at check stations. The annual \$13 permit is accepted at all state areas. Some early-season hunts are by reservation. Each year, hunters may apply for one reserved waterfowl hunt at a managed waterfowl area from Aug. 1-28 at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings or at license agents. Special rules are enforced, including shell limits, shot size limits, hunting party size, etc. Maps listing the special rules are available at the area check stations. Normal managed-area drawings may be cancelled late in the season if extreme weather results in low hunter participation. Area managers will post amended check station hunting rules a minimum of two days prior to any changes. Late in the season, hunters may wish to call area headquarters to verify that drawings will be held. Use of waders, decoys, calls, retrievers (except Allegan) and small boats and motors is recommended. See below for additional details.

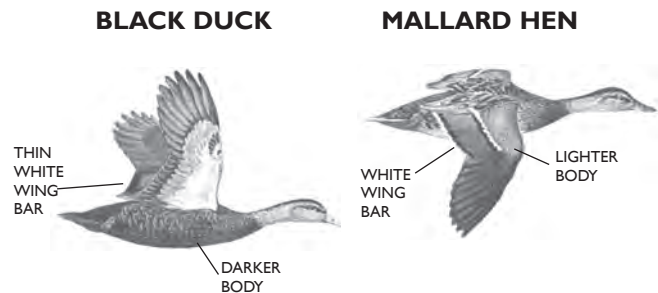
Area	County and Nearest Town	Telephone Number	Drawing Times (Reserved Hunting Dates)	Youth Hunting Dates*
FENNIVILLE FARM	Allegan, Fennville	(269) 561-2258	Drawings to select hunt zones are at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for morning hunts; and 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for afternoon hunts. Drawings on Dec. 10 are at 5:30 a.m. (open) and 11:00 a.m. (youth only). (Fee)	Nov. 12 (a.m.) and Dec. 10 (p.m.) non-reserved
FISH POINT	Tuscola, Unionville	(989) 674-2511	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Oct. 29 (p.m.) non-reserved
MUSKEGON COUNTY WASTEWATER	Muskegon, Twin Lake	(231) 788-5055 Call for opening date.	Hunts only on Tuesday (a.m.), Thursday (a.m.), Saturday (a.m. and p.m.) and Sunday (a.m. and p.m.) during the season. Drawings to select hunt zones are at 5:30 a.m. for morning and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. There will be no hunting Nov. 15-30.	Oct. 29 (a.m. and p.m.) non-reserved
NAYANQUING POINT	Bay, Linwood	(989) 697-5101	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Oct. 22 (p.m.) non-reserved
POINTE MOUILLEE	Monroe, South Rockwood	(734) 379-9692	Open hunting each day of season on most of game area. Managed Hunting Area permits issued opening day and Sunday and Wednesday only thereafter. Drawings these days are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee)	Opening day (p.m.) and Nov. 13 (a.m.) non-reserved
SHIAWASSEE RIVER	Saginaw, St. Charles	(989) 865-6211	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:00 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 5 (p.m.) non-reserved
SHIAWASSEE FEDERAL REFUGE	Saginaw, Saginaw	(989) 777-5930	Drawings to select hunt zones are held at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunt only. (Daily hunter charge is \$4) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	NONE
ST. CLAIR FLATS (HARSENS IS.)	St. Clair, Algonac	(810) 748-9504	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:30 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 11 (p.m.) non-reserved

*Youth Hunt: Priority daily drawings are available for hunting parties with one or two parents or legal guardians 18 years of age or older and at least one youth 10-16. All youth participating in these priority hunts must be properly licensed to hunt. Only parties including youth hunters will be allowed to hunt at Allegan and ONLY youths will be permitted to shoot during these hunts. The maximum party size for youth priority daily drawings is four.

Identifying Ducks

Skill at identifying ducks in flight is important to limit harvest of less numerous duck species. Species with special restrictions are as follows:

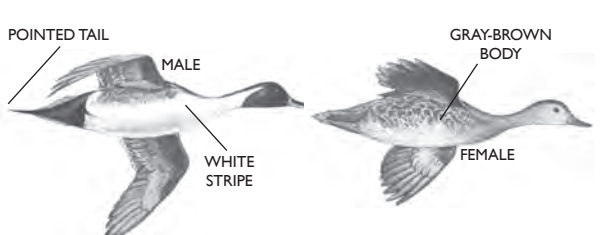
Mallard Hen/Black Duck—Both are restricted to one per day within the overall six-bird daily limit. Both birds have white underwings, but the black duck's darker body contrasts more sharply with the underwing than does the brown body of the female mallard. Mallards have white wing bars on both edges of the blue speculum. The black duck usually has none or only a thin white bar on the back edge of the speculum.



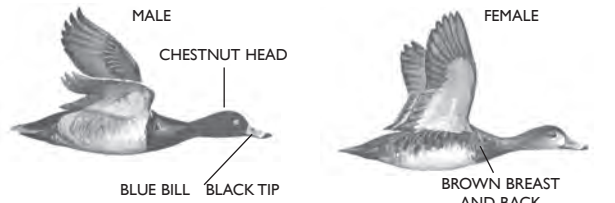
Wood Duck—This medium-sized duck frequents wooded ponds, streams and marshes statewide, especially early in the season. Drakes are very colorful, and hens and drakes have colorful wings with blue, maroon and silver hues. Calls are whistles and squeals. Three per day may be harvested.



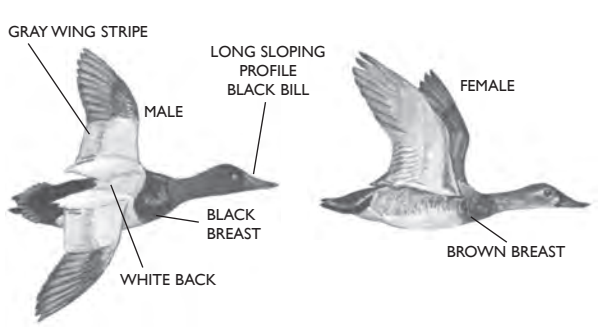
Pintail—Pintails are puddle ducks that frequent marshes. They are about the size of a mallard but slimmer in appearance. Few are well-colored before December, and most appear gray. The female wing speculum is cinnamon-colored, while the male speculum is green with a white trailing edge. Two pintails may be harvested per day during the 60-day open season.



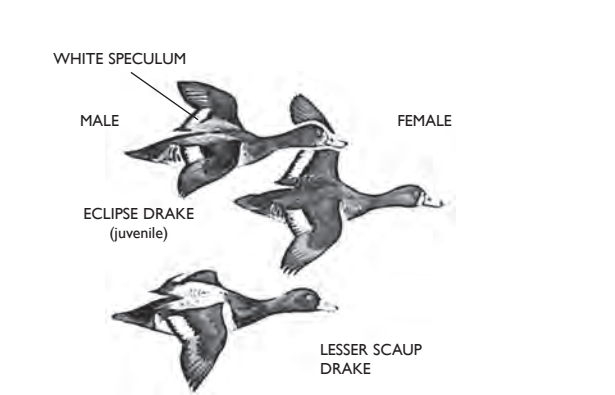
Redhead—This large diving duck has the shape of a mallard but is more uniformly brown or gray, with an unmarked gray wing speculum. Well-colored males have a chestnut red head. This bird frequents the open waters of large and small lakes, like the canvasback. Two per day may be harvested.



Canvasback—This large, mallard-sized diving duck has a characteristic wedge-shaped head and is usually found on the open waters of large and small lakes. Well-colored males have a red head. Only one canvasback may be harvested per day during the 60-day open season.



Scaup—These birds are medium-to-small diving ducks. Greater and lesser scaup (bluebill) appear nearly identical in the field; however the white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the tip in the greater scaup, but only about halfway in the lesser. Two scaup per day may be harvested during the 60-day open season.



Daily Limit for Ducks and Mergansers

The daily limit of 6 ducks may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a female), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 1 black duck and 1 canvasback. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit is twice the daily limit for ducks and mergansers.

License and Waterfowl Stamp Requirements

To hunt migratory waterfowl in Michigan you must have a small game hunting license. Persons age 16 and older also must have a **Michigan waterfowl hunting license (\$5)** and a **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp* (\$15)**.

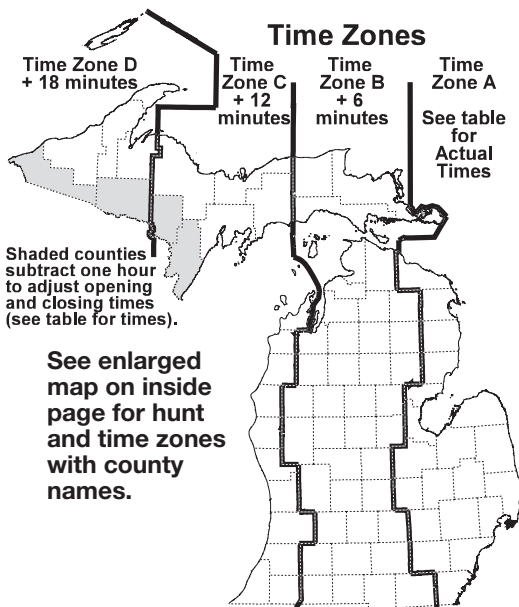
The HIP endorsement (see HIP information in this digest) is required for all persons hunting migratory birds.

- Small game license options (only one required):**
- Resident small game license \$15
 - Resident senior small game license \$6
 - Resident junior small game license \$1
 - Nonresident small game license \$69
 - Nonresident three-day small game license \$30

*The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp must be signed with your name across the face in ink. It is available at post offices and some Michigan license agents. All other items are available from license agents or online at: www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings.

Youth Waterfowl Weekend

Youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be Sept. 17-18 statewide for properly licensed youths 10 to 15 years of age. The daily limit includes ducks, mergansers, geese, coots and moorhens. Youth must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated by their parent or guardian. The adult will not be allowed to hunt ducks, mergansers, coots or moorhens and will not be required to have a waterfowl hunting license. The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular season. Daily shooting hours are listed in the Migratory Bird Hunting Hours Table.



Zone A. Hunting Hours Table.

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (adjusted for daylight-saving time).

	2011						2012					
	September		October		November		December		January		February	
Date	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	6:27	8:07	6:59	7:14	7:35	6:26	7:12	5:01	7:32	5:10	7:16	5:46
2	6:28	8:05	7:00	7:13	7:37	6:25	7:13	5:00	7:32	5:11	7:15	5:47
3	6:29	8:03	7:01	7:11	7:38	6:23	7:14	5:00	7:32	5:12	7:14	5:48
4	6:30	8:02	7:02	7:09	7:39	6:22	7:15	5:00	7:32	5:13	7:13	5:50
5	6:31	8:00	7:04	7:07	7:40	6:21	7:16	5:00	7:32	5:14	7:12	5:51
6	6:33	7:58	7:05	7:06	6:42	5:20	7:17	5:00	7:32	5:15	7:11	5:52
7	6:34	7:57	7:06	7:04	6:43	5:19	7:18	5:00	7:32	5:16	7:10	5:54
8	6:35	7:55	7:07	7:02	6:44	5:18	7:19	5:00	7:31	5:17	7:09	5:55
9	6:36	7:53	7:08	7:01	6:45	5:16	7:20	5:00	7:31	5:18	7:07	5:56
10	6:37	7:51	7:09	6:59	6:47	5:15	7:20	5:00	7:31	5:19	7:06	5:58
11	6:38	7:50	7:10	6:57	6:48	5:14	7:21	5:00	7:31	5:20	7:05	5:59
12	6:39	7:48	7:11	6:56	6:49	5:13	7:22	5:00	7:30	5:21	7:04	6:00
13	6:40	7:46	7:13	6:54	6:50	5:12	7:23	5:00	7:30	5:22	7:02	6:01
14	6:41	7:44	7:14	6:52	6:52	5:11	7:24	5:00	7:30	5:23	7:01	6:03
15	6:42	7:42	7:15	6:51	6:53	5:11	7:24	5:00	7:29	5:24	7:00	6:04
16	6:43	7:41	7:16	6:49	6:54	5:10	7:25	5:01	7:29	5:26	6:58	6:05
17	6:44	7:39	7:17	6:48	6:55	5:09	7:26	5:01	7:28	5:27		
18	6:45	7:37	7:18	6:46	6:57	5:08	7:26	5:01	7:28	5:28		
19	6:46	7:35	7:20	6:44	6:58	5:07	7:27	5:02	7:27	5:29		
20	6:47	7:34	7:21	6:43	6:59	5:06	7:28	5:02	7:27	5:30		
21	6:48	7:32	7:22	6:41	7:00	5:06	7:28	5:03	7:26	5:32		
22	6:49	7:30	7:23	6:40	7:01	5:05	7:29	5:03	7:25	5:33		
23	6:50	7:28	7:24	6:38	7:03	5:04	7:29	5:04	7:24	5:34		
24	6:52	7:27	7:26	6:37	7:04	5:04	7:30	5:04	7:24	5:35		
25	6:53	7:25	7:27	6:36	7:05	5:03	7:30	5:05	7:23	5:37		
26	6:54	7:23	7:28	6:34	7:06	5:03	7:30	5:05	7:22	5:38		
27	6:55	7:21	7:29	6:33	7:07	5:02	7:31	5:06	7:21	5:39		
28	6:56	7:19	7:30	6:31	7:08	5:02	7:31	5:07	7:20	5:41		
29	6:57	7:18	7:32	6:30	7:10	5:01	7:31	5:08	7:19	5:42		
30	6:58	7:16	7:33	6:29	7:11	5:01	7:31	5:08	7:18	5:43		
31			7:34	6:27			7:32	5:09	7:18	5:45		

Seasons and Daily Limits

ZONE/SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (all dates inclusive)	BAG LIMITS DAILY	POSSESSION	NOTES
NORTH ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS	Sept. 24 - Nov. 18 and Nov. 24-27	6	12	a, b
COOTS	Sept. 24 - Nov. 18 and Nov. 24-27	15	30	b
MOORHENS	Sept. 24 - Nov. 18 and Nov. 24-27	1	2	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON	Sept. 1-10	5	10	d
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON	Sept. 17 - Oct. 31	2	4	
OTHER GEESE SNOW, BLUE, ROSS WHITE-FRONTED AND BRANT	Sept. 17 - Oct. 31	20 1	60 2	
MIDDLE ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS	Oct. 1 - Nov. 27 and Dec. 3-4	6	12	a, b
COOTS	Oct. 1 - Nov. 27 and Dec. 3-4	15	30	b
MOORHENS	Oct. 1 - Nov. 27 and Dec. 3-4	1	2	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON	Sept. 1-15	5	10	d
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON	Oct. 1 - Nov. 8 and Nov. 24-27 and Dec. 3-4	2	4	
OTHER GEESE SNOW, BLUE, ROSS WHITE-FRONTED AND BRANT	Oct. 1 - Nov. 8 and Nov. 24-27 and Dec. 3-4	20 1	60 2	
SOUTH ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS	Oct. 8 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 10-11	6	12	a, b
COOTS	Oct. 8 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 10-11	15	30	b
MOORHENS	Oct. 8 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 10-11	1	2	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON (except counties below)	Sept. 1-15	5	10	d
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON (Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties only)	Sept. 1-10	5 5	10 10	d d
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON (excluding GMUs below)	Oct. 8 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 24 - Dec. 4	2	4	
GOOSE MANAGEMENT UNITS ALLEGAN COUNTY GMU	Nov. 12-30 and Dec. 10-20 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 14, 2012	2 2 2 2 2	4 4 4 4 4	
MUSKEGON WASTEWATER GMU SAGINAW COUNTY GMU	Oct. 11 - Nov. 13 and Dec. 1-11 Oct. 8 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 24 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 29, 2012	2 2 2 2 2	4 4 4 4 4	
TUSCOLA-HURON GMU	Oct. 8 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 24 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 29, 2012	2	4	
CANADA GEESE LATE SEASON (excluding GMUs)	Dec. 31 - Jan. 29, 2012	5	10	
OTHER GEESE SNOW, BLUE, ROSS WHITE-FRONTED AND BRANT	Oct. 8 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 24 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 29, 2012	20 1	60 2	
STATEWIDE				
SNIPES AND RAILS	Sept. 15 - Nov. 14	8	16	b, c

Notes/Exceptions:
(a) See Daily Limit for Ducks and Mergansers section. The merganser daily limit is in addition to the duck daily limit.
(b) See Youth Waterfowl Weekend section for requirements.
(c) Daily limit is 8 rails (Sora and Virginia combined) and 8 snipe. The possession limit is twice the daily limit.
(d) See 2011 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest for details on early goose season in state parks and recreation areas.

MICHIGAN WATERFOWL HUNTING DIGEST

2011-2012 SEASONS



www.michigan.gov/hunting



Important Information for 2011:

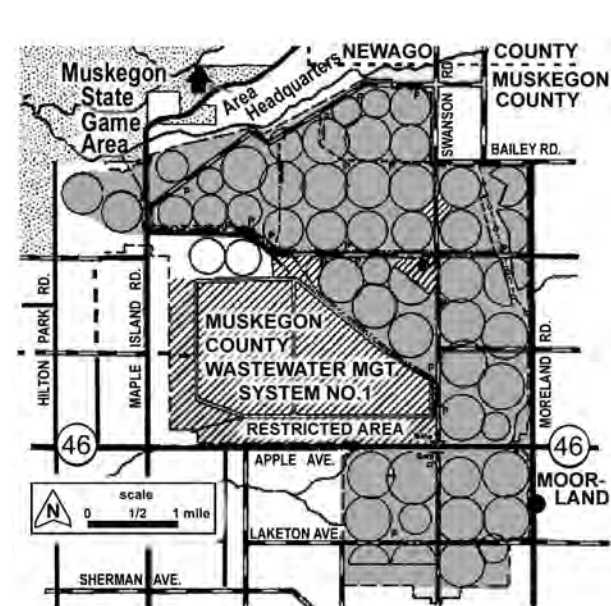
- Commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Additional information inside digest.

www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt

PURE MICHIGAN Hunt

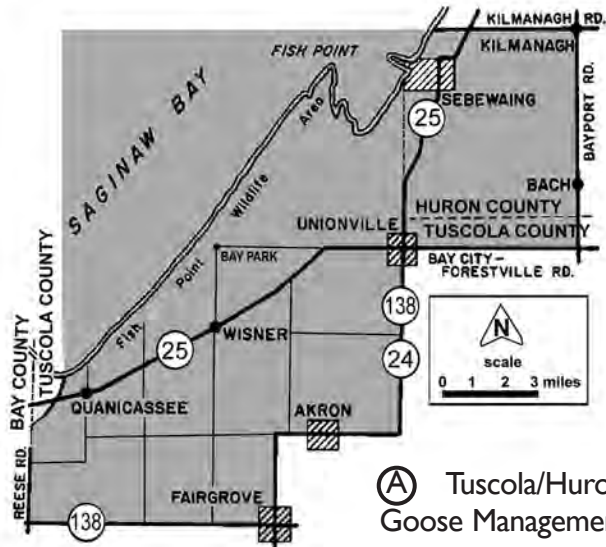
A chance to hunt elk, bear, turkey, deer and a reserved waterfowl hunt all in the same year. Only \$4 for each application - apply as many times as you'd like. It will not affect your eligibility to apply for, or purchase, other hunting licenses. You could win a rifle and crossbow! Apply for a Pure Michigan Hunt license today!

GOOSE MANAGEMENT UNIT REGULATIONS



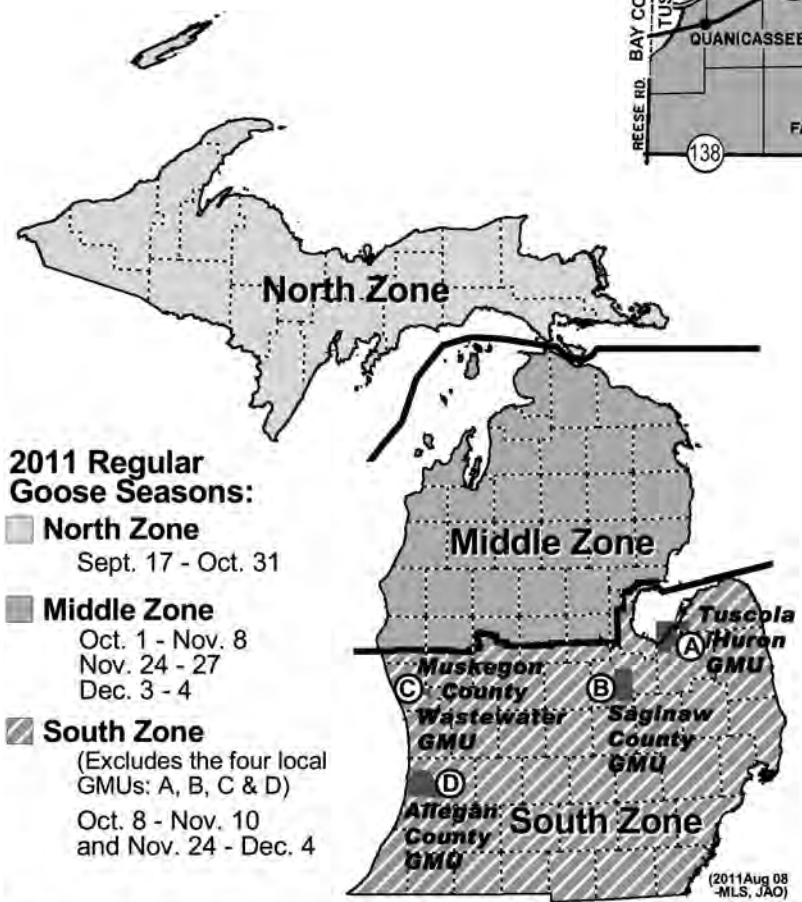
C Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit

Oct. 11 - Nov. 13
and Dec. 1-11
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese
Hunts only Tues. (a.m.),
Thurs. (a.m.), Sat. (a.m. and p.m.)
and Sun. (a.m. and p.m.)
during the season



A Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Unit

Oct. 8 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 24 - Dec. 4
and Dec. 31 - Jan. 29, 2012
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese



2011 Regular Goose Seasons:

North Zone

Sept. 17 - Oct. 31

Middle Zone

Oct. 1 - Nov. 8
Nov. 24 - 27
Dec. 3 - 4

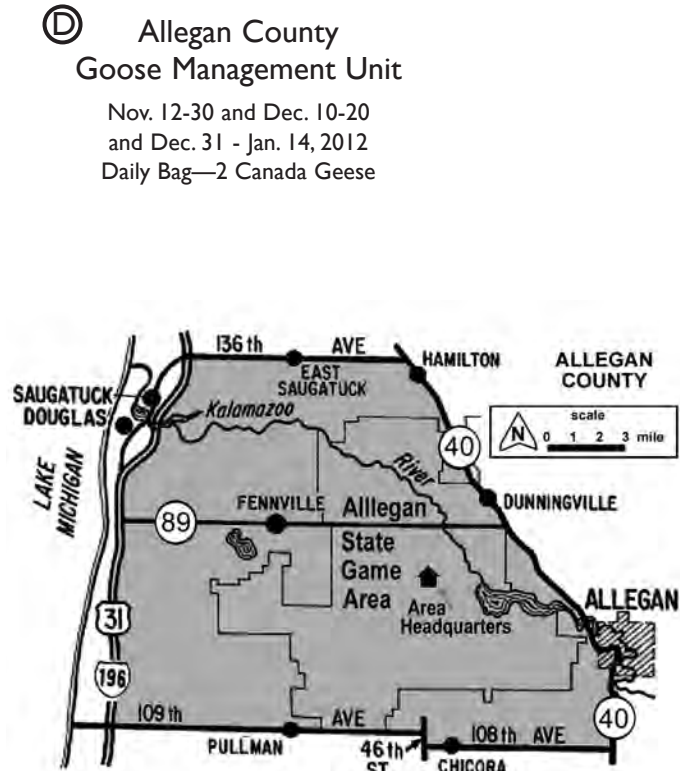
South Zone

(Excludes the four local
GMUs: A, B, C & D)
Oct. 8 - Nov. 10
and Nov. 24 - Dec. 4

Local Goose Management Units (GMUs) A, B, C, and D have different hunt dates and season lengths.

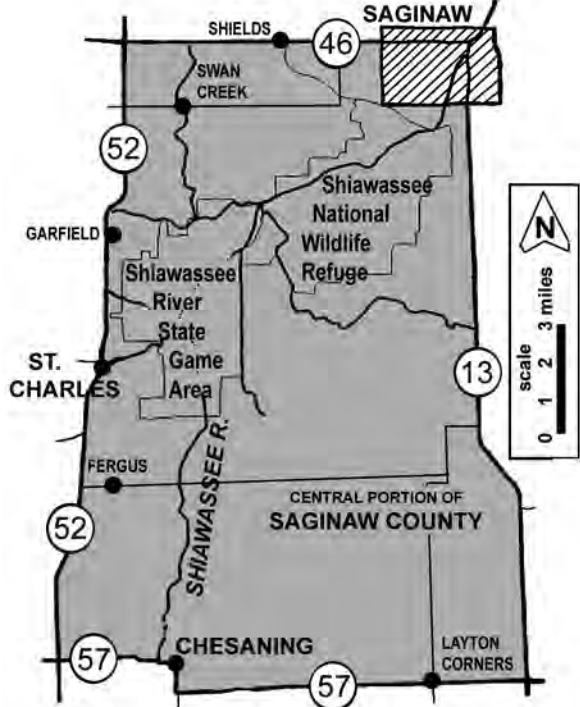
For specifics, see inset maps for each GMU, shown around this map.

For detailed descriptions of zone boundaries, contact a DNR Operations Service Center or go online to www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws.



D Allegan County Goose Management Unit

Nov. 12-30 and Dec. 10-20
and Dec. 31 - Jan. 14, 2012
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese



B Saginaw County Goose Management Unit

Oct. 8 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 24 - Dec. 4
and Dec. 31 - Jan. 29, 2012
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

If you are planning to hunt any migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.) in Michigan this fall, you must have a Harvest Information Program (HIP) endorsement printed on your small game license. The HIP endorsement automatically is included with the purchase of every waterfowl license. Those hunting migratory birds without this endorsement may be fined.

The HIP survey, used to increase accuracy in estimating harvest in each state, is important for state and federal efforts to manage migratory birds. The HIP endorsement, which consists of the statement: "Migratory Bird Hunter Survey—YES," is printed on your small game license when you answer the HIP survey questions. **There is no cost for this endorsement. If the license agent fails to ask you the HIP questions, you can do any of the following to receive the endorsement:**

- Ask the agent to reissue the license.
- Visit the DNR E-license website at www.michigan.gov/hunt/drawings.
- Visit any DNR Operations Service Center.

Waterfowl Stamp Program

The Michigan Duck Hunters Association (MDHA) coordinates the Michigan waterfowl stamp program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. MDHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to waterfowl and wetland conservation. Proceeds from stamp sales will be used to fund MDHA projects, with 10 percent used to match DNR funding for purchasing wetlands.

The 2011 Michigan duck stamp features a mallard painted by Richard Clifton (see digest cover). Purchase of these collector-edition stamps is voluntary and does not replace the state waterfowl hunting license. MDHA will mail waterfowl hunters a free copy of the stamp (subject to availability) if they send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a copy of their Michigan waterfowl hunting license to: Michigan Duck Hunters Association, Waterfowl Stamp Program, P.O. Box 20, Midland, MI 48640.

Leg-Band Reporting

Every hunter can promote sound waterfowl management by promptly reporting all banded and/or neck-collared ducks and geese harvested, including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival, migration routes and contribution to the state harvest from different breeding grounds.

To report bands, call 800-327-BAND,
or go online to www.reportband.gov
or write:
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Bird Banding Laboratory
12100 Beech Forest Road
Laurel, MD 20708-4037
www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl

NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice, nor a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed guide issued for hunters' convenience. The legal Wildlife Conservation Orders can be obtained from the following website: www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws.

Printed By Authority of Act 451, P.A. 1994 as amended.
Total Number of Copies Printed: 100,000; Total Cost: \$ 10,261.58; Cost per Copy: \$ 0.10

Waterfowl Status

Ducks - Continental duck populations saw an 11% increase over 2010 as a result of exceptionally good wetland conditions in the mid-continent prairie and parkland regions. Most duck species saw increases over last year and were above their long-term averages. However, ~75% of Michigan's mallard harvest is from ducks produced in the Great Lakes region. Michigan's mallard population was down 34% this year from 2010 and 40% below the long-term average. Despite very good predictions for continental fall duck flights, Michigan duck hunters may encounter fewer ducks, especially mallards, this season. However wetland conditions are good throughout the state so ducks and hunters will have no problem finding areas to use.

Canada Geese - Michigan's Canada goose harvest is derived from primarily three flocks, including resident giant Canada geese, the Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) and the Southern James Bay Population (SJB). Michigan's resident geese make up approximately 70% of the state's goose harvest. Michigan's resident goose population estimate was down 42% from last year. The MVP and SJB flocks breed largely on Hudson Bay, Ontario and account for the majority of Michigan's migrant goose harvest. MVP numbers are significantly down this year, and SJB numbers are stable. Goose hunters may see smaller numbers of Canada geese throughout Michigan's goose hunting seasons; however some local areas have good resident goose numbers and will provide excellent opportunity.

Joint State-Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

RESTRICTION—No person shall take or attempt to take migratory game birds (including woodcock):

- With a trap, snare, net, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With any firearm except a 10-gauge or smaller shotgun capable of holding no more than three shells. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells shall be plugged with a one-piece filler; incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.
- With the use of any single-projectile shotshell. Bows and arrows, including crossbows, are legal for waterfowl hunting.
- By the use or possession of more than one gun for each person in the hunting party.
- From, or with the aid or use of, a car or other motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs who have been issued a DNR permit to take game from a standing vehicle may use a stationary motor vehicle, or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat, power boat or other craft having a motor attached, any sailboat, or any floating craft or device of any kind propelled or towed by power or sail, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress ceased. A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft while under power or until forward progress has ceased. A loaded gun shall not be transported in an automobile, aircraft, motorboat or sailboat, motor bike, tractor, ORV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- From a sinkbox. (A sinkbox is a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.)
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls, imitations of bird calls, bird sounds, or imitations of bird sounds. Use of electronically or mechanically operated decoys that do not produce bird sounds or calls is not prohibited.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. Non-food imitations—for example, plastic corn cobs—are not prohibited.

Falconry Season

Falconry is a permitted method of hunting migratory game birds. Rails, snipe, woodcock, geese, ducks, mergansers, coots and moorhens may be taken during the established firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units. In addition, ducks, mergansers, coots and moorhens may be taken statewide by falconry during Dec. 12 - Jan. 15, 2012 and Mar. 1-10, 2012. The daily limit is 3 birds of single or combined species. Possession limit is 6 birds.

Hunter Surveys

Some hunters are randomly selected each year to participate in state or federal harvest surveys, including collection of wings, tails and other body parts. Accurate and complete reporting is essential for biologists to estimate the annual harvest and impact of hunting. Please do your part to help manage waterfowl by responding to surveys. The knowledge gained permits selection of annual regulations that maximize hunting opportunities while perpetuating healthy waterfowl populations for future hunters.

Type E Botulism

Type E botulism is a disease that results when a toxin, produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*, is ingested, causing paralysis. This disease has been associated with fish and water-bird die-offs on Lake Michigan in recent years. Intoxicated birds may be lethargic, have difficulty holding their head out of the water or be unable to fly. Waterfowl hunters in the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula should follow the precautions listed below:

Precautions When Processing Waterfowl

- Harvest only waterfowl that act and look healthy.
- Wear rubber, plastic or disposable gloves while field dressing, skinning or butchering waterfowl.
- Remove and discard intestines soon after harvesting and avoid direct contact with the intestinal contents.
- Wash hands, utensils and work surfaces before and after handling any meat.
- Keep waterfowl cool (either with ice or refrigeration) below 45°F until butchered, then refrigerate or freeze.
- Cook waterfowl to an internal temperature of 165°F. Cooking may not destroy the botulism E toxin.

Dioxin Advisory Information

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources determined that samples of wild game taken in 2003, 2004 and 2007 from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contain high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. Wild game that have been tested include deer, turkey, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, wood duck and Canada goose. As a result, the MDCH advises that hunters and their families follow these recommendations related to waterfowl:

- Do not eat the skin of Canada goose or wood duck harvested in or near the floodplain of the Tittabawassee River downstream of Midland and in or near the floodplain of the Saginaw River. MDCH recommends that you remove the skin of waterfowl before cooking and discard the liver and other internal organs.

Additional information regarding dioxin, dioxin-like compounds and wild-game advisories for the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River floodplains, including a map of the area covered by these advisories, is available on the MDCH website at www.michigan.gov/dioxin.

WANTON WASTE—You may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve it and include it in your daily bag limit.

DECOYS, BLINDS, RAISED PLATFORMS

- You may not leave decoys set out between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. in waters of the Great Lakes and connecting waters, and lakes wholly enclosed by publicly owned lands.
- You may not erect or use a hunting blind on any public waters without permanently affixing to the exterior, in waterproof letters not less than three inches high, the name and address of the person who placed it there. Any unoccupied blind on the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair may be used by the first person to occupy it each day.
- You may not leave any hunting blind or part thereof anchored or affixed to the bottomlands of any public waters within the state of Michigan prior to Aug. 15 or later than Jan. 16.
- You may not hunt waterfowl with a firearm from a raised platform except over submerged bottomlands. Blinds or platforms constructed over public waters must meet marking and removal requirements.
- You may not use or occupy a blind on the waters of the state that does not comply with marking and placement requirements.
- Contact the Plainwell DNR office (269-685-6851) regarding blind rules for Allegan County.

FEDERAL REFUGES—You may not possess or carry firearms or bow and arrow or hunt or kill any game during the open season for hunting and taking of migratory game birds on any national wildlife refuge when posted to prohibit unauthorized entry, except on that portion of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County on which goose hunting is authorized by a daily hunting permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CAUTION—More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, One Federal Dr., Fort Snelling, MN 55111, phone: 612-713-5320.

DUAL VIOLATIONS—Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

REFERENCE—Hunters should consult the actual federal regulations related to migratory game birds, which are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

Non-Toxic Shot Rules

Use of non-toxic shot is required statewide for all waterfowl hunting. When you hunt to take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, rails or snipe anywhere in the state of Michigan, you may not possess or use shotshells loaded with a material other than non-toxic steel, bismuth, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten matrix or other shot determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be non-toxic. Waterfowl hunters using muzzleloaders must also use USFWS-approved non-toxic shot. Shells loaded with lead shot may be used to hunt other small game species, including woodcock. NOTE: Check area rules and DNR website for non-toxic shot regulations for non-waterfowl hunting on managed waterfowl areas.

Float Hunting

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowners bordering the waterway and their invited guests. Float hunters need permission to enter lands protected by the Recreational Trespass Act. You may float-hunt public lands open to hunting.



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.